



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

July 29, 2016

Town of Alton
Board of Selectmen
PO Box 659
Alton, NH 03809

Dear Board of Selectmen:

I am writing as a follow up to discussions at the July 18, 2016 Selectmen's meeting regarding the recently installed rumble strips along NH 28 in Alton. We acknowledge the concerns expressed by a significant number of Alton citizens who provided feedback including, constant noise from the rumble strips, loss of sleep, location of the strips on the edge line, the potential impact to vacation business and property values, and the lack of advance notice or the opportunity for public input in advance of the project. Given the level of negative feedback, the Department believes remedial action is warranted to address and rectify the situation.

Toward that end, the Department is planning to take the following actions:

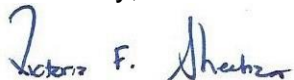
1. As noted at the meeting, the centerline rumble strips south of the Alton traffic circle to Hamwoods Road, where the majority of the width does not meet Department guidelines, will be removed – milled and paved in.
2. The edge line rumble stripes on the white line north of the circle will likewise be removed – milled and paved in. Future consideration to reinstalling rumble strips, further offset from the whiteline, will be made in conjunction with entire NH 28 corridor
3. The centerline rumble strips north of traffic circle will remain. This is consistent with the rest of the NH 28 corridor of similar width and character.
4. We recognize the concern about passing zones and will consider eliminating/stripping out passing zones in areas of particular receptors and with consensus from the community.

We believe this will address the majority of the concerns that have been brought forward. We are in the process of working with the contractor and subcontractors to determine how and when this will be accomplished. Certainly it would be in everyone's best interest to complete this work as soon as possible. When we have determined the schedule we will advise the Town and the abutters.

We believe that installing rumble strips is a worthwhile safety benefit. However we recognize the need to reevaluate and modify our guidelines for placement and location of rumble strips, as well as the need to improve public participation, outreach, and awareness. We regret the frustration that this project has caused and the need for this remediation.

Thank you for your patience as we have listened to concerns, completed field reviews and have tried to determine the best way to proceed. If you have any questions, or feel it would be beneficial for the Department to address the board again, please don't hesitate to call or write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victoria F. Sheehan".

Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Joe Kenney, Executive Councilor, District 1
B. Cass
R. Grandmaison
A. Hanscom